

by said image data generating start mechanism.---

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant notes that item 6 of the Detailed Action specified that claims 1-7 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), but that the Examiner discussed claims 1-18 under this rejection. During a telephone conversation with the Examiner on February 5, 2003, the Examiner confirmed that this rejection should have indicated that it was being applied to claims 1-18. Further, the Examiner acknowledged the existence of a typographic error on page 4 of the Detailed Action, confirming that the discussion therein with respect to claims 4 and 11 is actually directed to claims 4 and 12. Applicant thanks the Examiner for clarifying these issues with their U.S. counsel.

Claims 16-18 are objected to because of an informality in claim 16. By the current amendment, Applicant amends claim 16, paying particular attention to the concern raised by the Examiner. In view of the current amendment to claim 16, Applicant submits that the objection to claims 16-18 no longer exist, and respectfully requests withdrawal of this ground of objection.

Claims 1-8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant amends the claims herein, paying particular attention to the concerns raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the grounds for this rejection no longer exist, and respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,942,477 to NAKAMURA. Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection.

According to one feature of the present invention, a versatile camera/printer system is disclosed, in which both the photographing operation (e.g., generating image data) and the reproducing operation (e.g., printing the image data) can be performed by either the camera or the printer. Specifically, release switch 101 on the camera can be manipulated to perform the photographing operation associated with the camera, and to perform the reproducing (printing) operation associated with the printer. Similarly, the print start switch 214 of the printer can be manipulated to perform the photography operation associated with the camera, and to perform the reproducing operation associated with the printer. As described at, for example, pages 17 and 18 of Applicant's specification, when release switch 101 (or print start switch 214) is manipulated a first time, a first operation (such as, for example, the photography operation) is performed. When the release switch 101 (or print start switch 214) is manipulated a second time (or, alternatively, depressed continuously for a predetermined period of time), a second operation, such as the reproducing (printing) operation is performed.

According to another feature of the present invention, as described at, for example, page 22 of Applicant's specification, after a photographing operation is performed, the operation mode is changed to the reproducing (printing) mode, and a wait state is performed, in which certain operations (such as, for example, steps 104, 130, 132 and 136, shown in Fig. 5A and 5B) are repeatedly executed (looped).

Applicant submits that at least these features are not disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record. Specifically, Applicant submits that NAKAMURA fails to disclose (or even suggest) that both the photographing operation and the reproducing operation are performable by both the camera and the printer, as specified in Applicant's independent claims 1 and 16. NAKAMURA discloses (see, for example, column 3, lines 24-28 and lines 41-45 and column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 3) that the shutter switch 28 on the optical device 1 determines when a picture image is taken, while switch 13 on the printer 12 determines when a picture image is taken and instructs the printer 12 to print a hard copy of the picture image. Thus, Applicant submits that while NAKAMURA discloses that the shutter switch 28 of the optical device 1 controls a photographing operation by the optical device 1, it is silent with respect to the shutter switch 28 controlling a printing operation by the printer device 12.

Similarly, Applicant submits that NAKAMURA also fails to disclose (or suggest) the above-discussed wait state. That is, Applicant submits that NAKAMURA does not teach that a waiting operation is performed in a reproduction mode after a photographing mode is performed, as specified in Applicant's independent claim 8.

Thus, Applicant submits that NAKAMURA fails to anticipate the present invention, as defined by the amended claims. In this regard, Applicant's independent claim 1 has been revised to clarify that in the photography mode, either the image data generating start mechanism associated with the camera or the printing operation start mechanism associated with the printer controls a photographing operation by the camera, while in the reproduction

mode, either the image data generating start mechanism or the printing operation start mechanism controls a printing operation by the printer. In a similar manner, independent claim 16 is amended to clarify that the photographing operation is performed, in the photography mode and the reproduction mode, in accordance with the operation of either a release switch of the camera or a print start switch of the printer. Further, Applicant amends independent claim 8 to clarify that a wait operation (e.g., loop operation) is performed in the reproduction mode after a photographing operation is performed.

As these features are not taught by NAKAMURA, Applicant submits that the present invention, as defined by the claims, are distinguishable from NAKAMURA. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection, to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass the application to issue.

Applicant further submits new claim 19 for the Examiner's connection. This claim is believed to be allowable for at least the reason discussed above; namely, that the image data captured by the camera is printed by a printer in accordance with an operation of an image data generating start mechanism associated with the camera. As this feature is not disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record, Applicant submits that new claim 19 is allowable, and respectfully requests such an indication from the Examiner.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

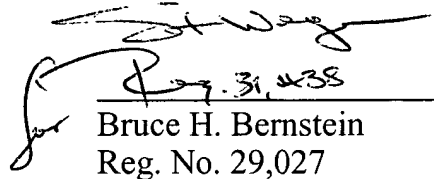
In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the

Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX A -MARKED UP CLAIMS

1 (Amended). A still video camera connectable to a printer provided with a printing operation start mechanism that activates a printing operation, comprising:

an image data generating processor that performs, in a photography mode, a photographing operation in which image data is generated according to [said] an image formed by an optical system;

an image data generating start mechanism that activates said image data generating processor; and

an image data transmitting processor that transmits, in a reproduction mode, said image data to said printer, [;]

said image data generating processor being activatable, in said photography mode, in accordance with a first operation by one of said image data generating start mechanism and a printing operation start mechanism associated with said printer, so that said still video camera carries out said photographing operation, [and] said image data transmitting processor being activatable, in said reproduction mode by one of said image data generating start mechanism and said printing operation start mechanism, so that said printer carries out said printing operation.

3 (Amended). A still video camera according to claim 1, wherein [in said photographing mode, said photographing operation is performed in accordance with a first

operation of one of said printing operation start mechanism and said image data generating start mechanism, and] after said photographing operation, an image corresponding to image data obtained by said photographing operation is printed by said printer.

5 (Amended). A still video camera according to claim 1, wherein, in said reproduction mode, said image data is printed by said printer in accordance with a second operation of one of said printing operation start mechanism and said image data generating start mechanism.

8 (Amended). A printer connectable to a still video camera, which performs a photographing operation in a photography mode to obtain an image and generates image data corresponding to said image, and performs a transmission operation in a reproduction mode to transmit said image data to said printer, said printer comprising:

an image data receiving processor that receives said image data from said still video camera;

a printing processor that prints said image corresponding to said image data received by said image data receiving processor; and

a printing operation start mechanism that activates said printing processor, said still video camera being activatable by said printing operation start mechanism in said photography mode to perform said photographing operation, wherein a waiting operation is performed in said reproduction mode after said photographing operation is performed.

13 (Amended). A printer according to claim [11] 9, wherein, in said reproduction mode, said image is printed by said printer in accordance with a second operation of one of said printing operation start mechanism and said image data generating start mechanism.

16 (Amended). A camera-printer system, comprising [;] :

a still video camera that performs, in a photography mode, a photographing operation of an image formed by an optical system to generate image data corresponding to said image by operating a release switch, and outputs said image data in a reproduction mode from said still video camera;

a printer that prints said image corresponding to said image data output by said still video camera, by operating a print start switch; and

an image data transmission processor that transmits said image data to said printer;

said photographing operation being performed, in said photography mode and said reproduction mode, in accordance with a first operation of one of said release switch and said print start switch, and after said photographing operation, said image being printed by said printer, in said reproduction mode, in accordance with a second operation of one of said release switch and said [printing] print start switch.

18 (Amended). A camera-printer system according to claim 16, wherein, in said photography mode, said photographing operation is performed in accordance with said second operation of one of [said] a printing operation start mechanism and [said] an image

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data generating start mechanism, and after said photographing operation is completed, said reproduction mode is set.